

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

Phone: 605-737-6721 Email: ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil

Web: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil>

www.facebook.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard

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https://twitter.com/SD_Guard



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SD National Guard Soldiers give back to community

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Soldiers and families from the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and the 153rd Engineer Battalion volunteered their personal time to support the local Salvation Army sponsored “Brush Up Sioux Falls” paint-a-thon, June 17.

For the last 23 years, volunteers from the Sioux Empire have given their time to participate in this event.

The volunteers help elderly and disabled homeowners within the community by preparing and painting homes at no charge to the homeowner.

“This is an excellent opportunity to enable our Soldiers by getting involved within the community as well as lending a hand to those in need,” said Maj. Jason Thomson, coordinator for the National Guard painting team.

This is the second year that the Soldiers of the 196th and the 153rd helped support the event by painting the home of a veteran and his family.

“I enjoy doing things for others while not receiving anything back in return,” said Sgt. Mark Jensen, a Harrisburg native. “This project allows me to give back to the community and also support veterans who may be unable to take care of tasks that we take for granted.”

The teams that support the event are asked to donate their own supplies to complete the task.

“It’s nice to be able to witness first-hand how much these types of projects affect our community,” said Spc. Maggie Brown, an Alcester native. “It’s also fulfilling to see the families reaction from the beginning to the end of the project and how much they appreciated the support.”

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High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard



150617-Z-ZZ999-001: Soldiers of the South Dakota National Guard’s 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and the 153rd Engineer Battalion pose for a photo upon the completion of a home they painted during the local Salvation Army sponsored “Brush Up Sioux Falls” paint-a-thon on June 17, 2015, in Sioux Falls, S.D. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Jason Thomson/Released)



150617-Z-ZZ999-002: Soldiers of the South Dakota National Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and the 153rd Engineer Battalion work together to paint a home during the local Salvation Army sponsored "Brush Up Sioux Falls" paint-a-thon on June 17, 2015, in Sioux Falls, S.D. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Jason Thomson/Released)



150617-Z-ZZ999-003: Soldiers of the South Dakota National Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and the 153rd Engineer Battalion work together to paint a home during the local Salvation Army sponsored "Brush Up Sioux Falls" paint-a-thon on June 17, 2015, in Sioux Falls, S.D. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Jason Thomson/Released)



150617-Z-ZZ999-005: Soldiers and family members of the South Dakota National Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and the 153rd Engineer Battalion work together to paint a during the local Salvation Army sponsored "Brush Up Sioux Falls" paint-a-thon on June 17, 2015, in Sioux Falls, S.D. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Jason Thomson/Released)